

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 172175

NODIS
FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM BRIZILL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PFOR

SUBJECT: CABLE HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 22, 1977

1. TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS
FOR JULY 22.

2. ASAD NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW. DE BORCHGRAVE HAS GIVEN
EMBASSY AMMAN THE TEXT OF HIS JULY 20 INTERVIEW WITH ASAD
IN WHICH THE LATTER SAYS "THERE WILL BE NO MORE INTERIM
AGREEMENTS OR PARTIAL STEPS" IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. HUSSEIN NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW. DE BORCHGRAVE HAS ALSO
GIVEN EMBASSY AMMAN THE TEXT OF HIS JULY 21 INTERVIEW WITH
HUSSEIN. HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY SAID HE HOPES "THE US WILL
PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN WHAT WE HAVE WITNESSED IN
THE PAST" IN BRINGING ABOUT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. DE
BORCHGRAVE ANTICIPATES THAT BOTH THE ASAD AND HUSSEIN
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INTERVIEWS WILL APPEAR IN THE JULY 24 EDITION OF NEWSWEEK
AND THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE.

4. US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. BITSIOS TOLD
CHARGE MILLS YESTERDAY THAT DESPITE THE EXTREMELY DELI-
CATE POLITICAL SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE SCHAUFEL
MATTER, GREECE WAS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE FINAL

ROUND OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AS SCHEDULED ON JULY 28. THE COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE SHORT TO MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTACK BY OPPONENTS OF THE AGREEMENT.

5. SRI LANKA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER. PRIME MINISTER JAYEWARDENE IS 70 YEARS OLD AND HAS A REPUTATION FOR ORGANIZATION, HARD WORK, AND POLITICAL SAVVY. HIS ENTIRE CAREER HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO POLITICS.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE SRI LANKAN ELECTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT FACES SERIOUS PROBLEMS, BUT ITS VICTORY IS SO ONE-SIDED AS TO LEAVE LITTLE EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION SAVE THE TAMIL PARTY. WE SHOULD AVOID GESTURES OR ADVICE UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEKS OUR ASSISTANCE.

7. SADAT ON HOSTILITIES WITH LIBYA. SADAT TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS THAT QADHAFI HAD INITIATED THE CONFLICT BY RAIDING AN EGYPTIAN POLICE FRONTIER POST. "WE WILL GIVE QADHAFI A LESSON," ASSERTED SADAT, REPEATING SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE CONFLICT WILL ESCALATE BEFORE IT SUBSIDES.

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